

HOUSE BILL 722  
By Brooks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 11,  
relative to the African American struggle for justice,  
equality, and opportunity.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 11, is amended by adding  
the following as a new, appropriately designated part:

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. There is hereby created a commission on the African American  
struggle for justice, equality and opportunity.

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. The Commission shall consist of:

(a) One (1) member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
Senate;

(b) One (1) member of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by  
the Speaker of the House;

(c) Three (3) historians having knowledge of the African American  
struggle for justice, equality, and opportunity, one (1) of whom shall reside in  
each grand division of the state, to be appointed by a majority of the House and  
Senate appointees;

(d) One (1) representative of the Tennessee Historical Commission, to be  
appointed by the Governor;

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(e) Three (3) committee members, one (1) of whom shall reside in each grand division of the state, to be appointed by a majority of the House and Senate appointees.

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. With regard to the African American struggle for justice, equality, and opportunity, it shall be the duty of the commission to:

(a) recommend annually to the general assembly and the governor an appropriate observance of specific days of reflection and remembrance to commemorate those Tennesseans who gave their lives to advance the principles of justice, equality, and opportunity for all;

(b) review, monitor and recommend culturally specific educational outreach programs for public school teachers to better enable such teachers to inform students of the history and impact of the civil rights movement in our state and nation;

(c) review, monitor and recommend exhibits at the Tennessee state museum and at other public places around the state;

(d) review, monitor and recommend teaching units for public school teachers in cooperation with the state board of education;

(e) review, monitor and recommend culturally specific conferences for professors teaching at Tennessee's higher education institutions;

(f) facilitate commemorative services for the annual days of reflection and remembrance in Memphis, Jackson, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Johnson City; and

(g) review, monitor and recommend other culturally specific activities to periodically inform and remind all Tennesseans of the persons, events, and importance of the civil rights movement.

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. In addition to state appropriations, the commission may solicit and receive private funding to effectuate its purposes.

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. The commission shall be attached to the department of finance and administration for the purpose of administration only. Non-legislative members of the commission shall not be entitled to receive a salary for their services but may receive reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses to be paid in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations approved by the commissioner of finance and administration and the attorney general. Legislative members of the commission shall not be entitled to receive a salary for time spent on commission business but may receive reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 1997, the public welfare requiring it.